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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Armaments Production

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SUPPLEMENT [REDACTED]

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SOURCE

1. According to a leading official of the Skoda works in Plzen, only 420 workers in the armaments department at Plzen are engaged in finishing odd jobs which were started by the Germans and some activities initiated after the liberation. However, there is no armament production in the assembly line sense of term.
2. A high official of Skoda admits that the engineering offices of the armament division are buzzing with activity; they are under the strict control of the Ministry of National Defense.
3. The armaments policy of the Czechoslovak Government has not yet been formulated either in broad lines, that is, the allocation of work to the various nationalized plants, or with respect to the particular types of weapons to be manufactured. Officials in the armament industry expect that real directives as to particular types to be manufactured will finally be issued by the Russians as part of the coordination of the organization and the techniques of the Czechoslovak Army with those of the Soviet Army. Thus far, the Russians have taken various Czechoslovak arms to be tested, but have not indicated that they will accept particular types for large scale manufacture. It is also believed that the underground Skoda arms plant at Dubnica (Slovakia), which was built before the war, is not yet sufficiently restored for serious production. The plant now is hidden from the road by a nine-foot brick wall, behind which the restoration is in progress.

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